

WYCOMBE JOLT BEDFORD

Bedford Town 3, Wycombe Wanderers 2

IN a tough pre-season work-out at Bedford on Monday, Wycombe Wanderers did well to hold their professional opponents to such a narrow margin—and were a little unlucky that they did not end up at least on level terms.

The Wycombe team was a mixture of the old and new. Hector Wells took over from John Maskell in goal, Viv Busby replaced Paul Bates at centre-forward, Peter Eyres took John Beck's place at left-back and Steve Holmes was in Les Merrick's customary left-wing position.

The Eagles were nonplussed for the first 20 minutes after left-half Charlie Gale slammed in a goal from outside the penalty area in the fourth minute. The Wycombe forwards kept their opponents tied up in defence—but it could not last. The professionalism of Bedford came to the top and they began to build up solid attacks with great precision.

Their left-half, Pete Burridge, levelled the scores with a magnificent drive that young Hector Wells had no chance of stopping, and he put his team ahead in similar fashion in the 40th minute.

DEFENCE SHINES

The Wanderers were at sixes and sevens for the rest of the first half as they fought to keep Bedford at bay. Rundle and Eyres distinguished themselves in defence, Barry Baker was everywhere at once trying to marshall the sometimes erratic clearances, and Hector Wells kept goal with skill and confidence.

Wycombe remained unchanged for the second half, but Bedford brought on their new signing from Peterborough, 18-years-old Clive Adams.

And what a second half! The guise of a "friendly" match was dropped as both teams went at it hammer and tongs.

Right-winger Laurie Churchill put Bedford two up in the 57th minute. Burridge and Hall went close to scoring as well—but Wycombe gave back as good as they got. They played as a team and had try after try until Busby found Horseman with a good pass and the Wycombe goal-getter reduced the arrears in the 70th minute.

The last 20 minutes had the crowd roaring approval of the efforts of both teams. Hector Wells had a lion's share of the applause—but forwards Samuels, Busby, Roystone and Horseman kept much of the action in the Bedford half for the rest of the match.

Wycombe Wanderers—H. Wells; I. Rundle, P. Eyres; B. Baker, V. Faulkner, C. Gale; P. Roystone, K. Samuels, V. Busby, T. Horseman, S. Holmes.